

UNCLASSIFIED

ES
Page: 1

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1985BOGOTA08627

RELEASED IN FULL

Channel: n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08627 171923Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	EB-08	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	PM-10	PA-01	INRE-00
	SP-02	DOEE-00	SLPD-01	SPD-01	/034 W		
				-----371540 171958Z /42			

O 171802Z JUL 85
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1159
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
DIA WASHDC//OB-3/OS-1/AT/AT-511
JCS WASHDC//J5//
CINCSOUTH QUARRY HEIGHTS//PN//SC-J2//

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 08627

NOFORN

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: EPET, CO
SUBJECT: (C) FOREIGN COMPANIES ACCUSED OF AIDING
- GUERRILLAS

1. (U) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURISTS (SAC), CARLOS OSSA ESCOBAR, HAS PUBLICALLY ACCUSED FOREIGN COMPANIES INVOLVED IN BUILDING THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE OF BUYING PROTECTION FROM GUERRILLA GROUPS IN COLOMBIA. IN A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY, IVAN DUQUE ESCOBAR, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN EL TIEMPO ON JULY 16, OSSA SAID THAT THE COMPANIES HAD PAID THE GUERRILLAS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND LENT HELICOPTERS TO TRANSPORT THEIR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. OSSA SAID THAT HE LEARNED OF THIS COOPERATION FROM AGRICULTURISTS AND CATTLEMEN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CASANARE.

2. (U) OSSA IS A FORMER VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 08627 171923Z

AS SAC'S PRESIDENT, HE IS A PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL INTEREST GROUPS. SAC HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED A PEACE PROCESS BUILT ON A BASE

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 24 OCT 2002 200201334

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1985BOGOTA08627

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

OF STRENGTHENING LEGITIMATE POLITICAL AUTHORITY. WHAT OSSA FINDS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME ABOUT THE ALLEGED ACTIONS OF THE FOREIGN COMPANIES IS THAT SUCH COOPERATION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEMORALIZATION AND DETERIORATION OF COLOMBIA'S FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

3. (C) SUBSEQUENT TO THE PUBLICATION OF THIS LETTER, AN OFFICIAL OF ONE COMPANY INVOLVED IN THE PIPELINE PROJECT TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS BOSSES WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED. HE NOTED THAT IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT MANNESMAN, THE GERMAN COMPANY WHICH IS BUILDING THE PIPELINE FROM ARAUCA TO RIO ZULIA, HAD PAID BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR MILLION DOLLARS TO THE ELN GUERRILLA GROUP TO ASSURE WHAT THEY CALLED A "TRUCE" IN THE CONSTRUCTION AREA. APPARENTLY, MANNESMAN HAD ACTED INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHER FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE CANO LIMON PROJECT. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT COLOMBIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE FURIOUS WITH THE GERMANS BECAUSE OF THE PAYOFF AND BECAUSE THEY ALLOWED ELN GUERRILLAS TO REST IN THEIR FIELD CAMPS AND GAVE THEM PROVISIONS. IN SPITE OF THE TRUCE, HE SAID THAT MANNESMAN CAMPS HAVE BEEN ROBBED, BUT NOT NECESSARILY BY THE ELN.

4. (C) THE COLOMBIAN ARMY HAS ALSO DENOUNCED MANNESMAN'S CONTACTS WITH THE DOMINGO LAIN FRONT OF THE ELN. THIS FRONT IS REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS ATTACKS ON FIELD CAMPS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT. MAJOR GENERAL JAIME HERNANDEZ LOPEZ, COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH DIVISION LOCATED IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 08627 171923Z

VILLAVICENCIO, TOLD DEFENSE ATTACHE IN PRESENCE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALVARO GOMEZ THAT THESE GUERRILLAS HAVE REGULAR AND FREQUENT CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN COMPANY. HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT MANNESMAN HAD PAID THE GUERRILLAS AT LEAST 2 MILLION IN RANSOM PROTECTION MONEY. THE COMMANDER HAS PUBLICALLY ACCUSED MANNESMAN OF TRYING TO BLOCK REGULAR ARMY TROOPS FROM ENTERING THE ZONES WHERE THE COMPANY'S FIELD CAMPS ARE LOCATED. HE INTIMATED THAT MANNESMAN HAS BEEN INTIMIDATED BY GUERRILLAS' THREATS OF RETALIATION.

5. (U) THE OIL AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES OPERATING IN

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1985BOGOTA08627

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

ARAUCA AND CASANARE DENY THE ACCUSATIONS. SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH OCCIDENTAL AND MANNESMAN STATED THAT THEY ARE COLLABORATING WITH THE LOCA POPULATION BY BUILDING ROADS, SUPPLYING MEDICINES TO HOSPITALS AND IMPROVING SCHOOLS.

6. (C) COMMENT: THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE NOT NEW, BUT THEIR ENTRY INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN COULD HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FOREIGN COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE CANO LIMON PROJECT. ON JULY 16, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AUTHORIZED AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CHARGES. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS MATTER WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FRONT PAGE ATTENTION AND BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. IF THE CHARGES ARE SUBSTANTIATED, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER SOME SORT OF SANCTION AS WELL AS SOME ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES TO KEEP THE GUERRILLAS AWAY FROM THE AREAS WHERE THE OIL AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES ARE WORKING.
SKOL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED